

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 2 and 4-10 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 11 and 16 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3, 12-15 and 17-94 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In section 5, page 1 of the Action and at pages 7-8 of the Action, the Examiner indicates that claim 8 is allowed. This allowance of claim 8 is very much appreciated. Claims 2, 4-7 and 9-10 are amended to depend from Claim 8.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 9 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Shoji et al. (US 6683418). As noted above, claims 1 and 16 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2, 4-5, 7 and 9 are amended to depend from allowed claim 8.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as obvious over Shoji et al. (US 6683418) in view of Lapadula et al. (US 4211834). Claim 6 is amended to depend from allowed claim 8.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as obvious over Hug et al. (US 4230902) in view of Willett (US 3798568) and Huang et al. (US 2003/0210409). As noted above, claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 10 is amended to depend from claim 8.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as obvious over Abshire (US 4600299) in view of Silfvast et al. (US 4388720). As noted above, claims 1 and 11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

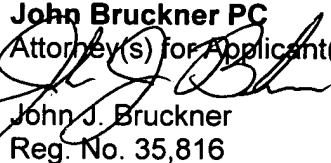
Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include acquiescence to statements in the Office Action. In view of the above, all the claims are considered patentable and allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned (at direct line 928-226-1073) for prompt action in the event any issues remain that prevent the allowance of any pending claims.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.136(a) pertaining to patent application processing fees, Applicant requests an extension of time from January 31, 2008 to April 30, 2008 in which to respond to the Office Action dated October 31, 2007. A notification of extension of time is filed herewith. A request for continued examination is also filed herewith.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3204 of John Bruckner PC.

Respectfully submitted,

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